

# Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

April 14, 2004

Edwin S. Kneedler, Esq.  
Deputy Solicitor General  
Department of Justice  
Office of the Solicitor General  
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

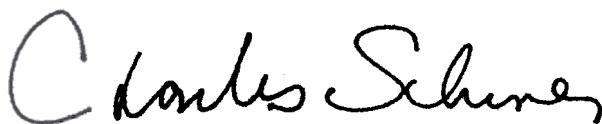
Re: *City of Sherrill, New York v. Oneida Indian Nation of New York* - In the Supreme Court of the United States/Petition for a Writ of Certiorari No. 03-855

Dear Mr. Kneedler:

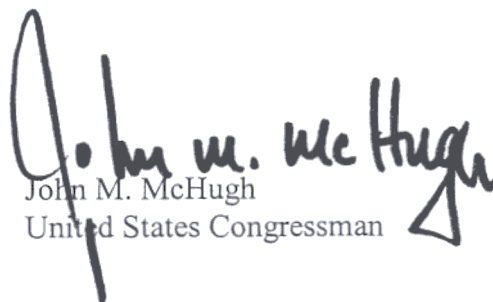
We are writing to urge the Solicitor General to support the City of Sherrill's Petition to the Supreme Court for a Writ of Certiorari. The issues raised by Sherrill in its Petition and by the amici, State of New York and Counties of Madison and Oneida, are extremely important to the people of New York as well as to other areas of the United States where Indian tribes are raising land claims and jurisdictional issues. The jurisdictional situation created by the Second Circuit's decision in *Sherrill* permits the Oneidas unilaterally to establish a checkerboard landscape of Indian country in upstate New York without following the land-into-trust process or in any other way being superintended by the federal government. The results are chaos with respect to governance of the area, severe impacts on the local governments from the loss of real property tax and sales tax revenues, and the loss of key commercial properties and businesses as they are acquired by the Oneidas and declared to be Indian country. Substantial legal issues, including issues related to the treaties of 1788, 1794 and 1838, should be addressed and resolved by the Supreme Court.

We understand that you have met with lawyers for the State of New York, Counties of Madison and Oneida, and City of Sherrill to discuss these matters in detail. We hope you agree that these issues are worthy of the Supreme Court's consideration and that you will support the Petition.

Respectfully,



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



John M. McHugh  
United States Congressman